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**Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Commissioner Terrence W. Macy's, Ph.D.
Statement on the Passing of "Margaret" Peg Dignoti, Former ARC Executive.**

He reflects on their two decades of partnership.

I was saddened today to learn of the passing of Margaret "Peg" Dignoti, the former Executive Director of The Arc Connecticut. Like all who had the privilege to know her and witness first hand her strident advocacy, I will miss the role she played in keeping our focus on the person centered supports. Peg was an advocate's advocate. The disability community has lost a champion who was both a fierce defender of the rights of all persons and a leader who would not compromise her principles.

As many are sharing remembrances of Peg today, I recall she inspired us all with her dedication to those we all support, their families, the larger disability community and the private provider agencies. In many respects, everyone who "experienced Peg" has been touched and that encounter has left a lifelong mark that each of us carries into our everyday work. We will all miss her good Irish humor and her ability "to connect" with self-advocates, families, legislators and community leaders. She embodied the values of the Arc movement and was recognized not only on our state level but throughout the nation. Like so many, I feel it was a privilege to have worked with her and had the opportunity to have learned from her leadership.

I would like to extend my condolences to all who knew Peg and especially her family at this difficult time.

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